

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01135 151041 Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 L-03 RSR-01 /098 W
----- 064555

R 150937 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6560
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E. O. 116 52: N/ A DECONTROL FOLLOWING 5/15/73

TAGS: ETRN BM IN

SUBJECT: AIR SERVICE, OVERFLIGHTS SUSPENDED BETWEEN BURMA, INDIA

REF: (A) CERP D; (B) RANGOON A-90, MAY 9, 1970 NOTAL

1. BURMA AND INDIA HAVE RECIPROCALLY SUSPENDED LANDING AND OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR EACH OTHER'S AIRLINES FOLLOWING INABILITY TO CONCLUDE AVIATION AGREEMENT. INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION HALTED FLIGHTS TO BURMA MAY 2 AND BURMA AIRWAYS CORPORATION SUSPENDED ITS FLIGHTS TO CALCUTTA AND KATHMANDU EFFECTIVE MAY 13.

2. INDIAN EMBOFF CONFIRMED BURMESE PRESS REPORT THAT PROBLEM ARISES FROM GUB INSISTENCE THAT ALL INDIAN LANDING AND OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS BE EXERCISED BY A SINGLE CARRIER. IN PAST, UNDER TEMPORARY EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN GUB AND GOI, AIR INDIA OVERFLEW BURMA EN ROUTE TO AND FROM BANGKOK AND IAC EXERCISED LANDING RIGHTS FOR CALCUTTA- RANGOON SERVICE. ISSUE WAS NOT RESOLVED AT NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW DELHI APRIL 9 TO 18, AND FLIGHTS WERE SUSPENDED AT BEGINNING OF MAY. FURTHER BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN RANGOON IN JULY.

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 01135 151041 Z

EM INDIAN EMBOFF INDICATED GOI MAY BE IN STRONGER BARGAINING POSITION, SINCE IAC SERVICE TO RANGOON IS UNPROFITABLE WHILE BAC SERVICE TO KATHMANDU (WHICH OF COURSE REQUIRES INDIAN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS) IS PROFITABLE.

4. COMMENT: AS REF B INDICATES, GUB DESIRE TO LIMIT EXERCISE OF RIGHTS TO ONE CARRIER IS POLICY OF LONG STANDING WHICH, HOWEVER, GUB HAS NEVER SOUGHT TO ENFORCE AGAINST US CARRIERS, PRESUMABLY IN VIEW OF U. S.- BURMESE BILATERAL WHICH SPECIFICALLY ENVISAGES MORE THAN ONE CARRIER. SUSPENSION OF BURMESE- INDIAN SERVICE SEEMS TO INDICATE POLICY IS BEING MORE ACTIVELY PURSUED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT OTHER INDIAN- BURMESE BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE AFFECTED OR THAT ANY POLITICAL MOTIVATION LIES BEHIND GUB DECISION.
MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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